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SENATOR DIERKS: The intention is that they would collect the tax as soon as they start producing the product.

SENATOR KREMER: Okay, that's what I would like to have on the record. You know, it could maybe say has or is receiving credits. When it says "has", it looked to me like it might be passed. So if that's on the record that it would also include the new plants that would be paying this excise tax then. Thank you, Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: You bet.

SENATOR KREMER: I guess, I will give the balance of my time back to the Chair. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Kremer. Senator Beutler, on the Dierks amendment to the committee amendments to LB 536.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, I would like to speak in favor of the bill. And I guess one of the first things, from a person who's been around a while on this issue, one of the first things I...I take note of is the funding allocation for the bill. And Senator Dierks well knows in the past we have had some serious back and forth on the mix of General Funds and the mix of fees, and now we have a brand new element, this distillers tax. And it looks to me, if I'm understanding it correctly, Senator Dierks, that between the distillers tax and the fee on producers, both of which are in a sense be on producers, well one on the ethanol companies, and one on producers, between those two about two-thirds of the cost is being picked up by those two elements of the funding allocation, and General Funds represents about one-third of the cost of this program that we're...that is being suggested right now. Is that roughly accurate, Senator Dierks?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Oh, I think I could adjust that a little bit, but that's not too far off.